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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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VOL. II APRIL - MAY, 1990

"From The Director's Desk"

On January 16, 1990, the South Carolina Mental Health Commission named the new State Veterans Nursing Home that is under construction in Anderson, South Carolina, the Richard Michael Campbell State Veterans Nursing Home.

Campbell, an Army Sergeant, was killed in action in Vietnam on May 7, 1968. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the National Defense Medal. Born on July 16, 1947, he was the son of Carroll A. Campbell, Sr., and Anne W. Campbell and the brother of Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. He was the grandson of the late Dr. S. D. Campbell who practiced medicine for over 70 years in the Greenville and Anderson areas. He grew up and attended public schools in Greenville County.

We feel that it is fitting that this much needed facility was named after a Vietnam veteran. The tentative date for admitting patients to the Richard Michael Campbell State Veterans Nursing Home is October 1, 1990.

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Service Organizations News

STATE DOCUMENTS

The major service organizations have announced the following dates and places for their State Conventions:

American Legion	June 22-24, 1990	Charleston
AMVETS	June 9-10, 1990	Columbia
Disabled American Veterans	May 17-20, 1990	Myrtle Beach
Veterans of Foreign Wars	June 22-24, 1990	Columbia

Court of Veterans Appeals

The newly established Court of Veterans Appeals heard its first case on February 7, 1990. It marked the first time a veteran has been able to obtain judicial review of a benefits decision made by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The court, which is still getting organized, currently has three judges. Three others have been nominated by the President and are awaiting Senate Confirmation. It is expected that the President will nominate one additional judge to fill the court.

POW Medal

The Secretary of the Navy has approved the award of the POW medal to crew members of the USS Pueblo. The Pueblo was seized by North Korea in 1968; however, its crew had been listed as detained, not captured. This classification was changed in the FY 1990 Defense Authorization Bill.

\$ MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY \$



The elimination of the bar to concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA compensation is a legislative priority for most of the veterans service organizations and will undoubtedly be an issue in this session of Congress. H.R. 303, which was introduced by Representative Michael Bilirakis (Fla.) of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, to eliminate this disparity, enjoys 274 cosponsors including Representatives Spence, Tallon and Ravenel of South Carolina. Even so, this bill has failed advancement in the House. Similar legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 563, has failed advancement in that Body.

Re-interment of Medal of Honor Recipient

PFC Ralph Henry Johnson, U. S. Marine Corps, made the supreme sacrifice on March 5, 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam when he hurled himself upon an enemy grenade to protect his fellow marines. For his courage, inspiring valor and selfless devotion to duty, he was awarded this Nation's highest award for valor and heroism, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Currently interred at St. Phillips A.M.E. Church on Johns Island in Charleston County, the remains will be transferred to the Beaufort National Cemetery. PFC Johnson will be the first Medal of Honor recipient to be interred at the Beaufort National Cemetery.

A memorial service and dedication will be held on May 26, 1990, at 1:00 PM at the Beaufort National Cemetery to honor this veteran who gallantly gave his life for his Country.

VA Compensation Increased \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

All veterans who are in receipt of VA compensation for service-connected disabilities received a 4.7% increase effective December 1, 1989. Listed below is a chart showing the old and new rates.

	<i>Old</i>	<i>New</i>		<i>Old</i>	<i>New</i>
10%	\$ 73	\$ 76	60%	\$ 537	\$ 562
20%	138	144	70%	678	710
30%	210	220	80%	784	821
40%	300	314	90%	883	925
50%	426	446	100%	1,468	1,537

In addition, dependency rates for veterans entitled to 30% compensation or higher and Special Monthly Compensation were increased a like amount.

The rates for surviving spouses and children entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation were also increased 4.7% effective December 1, 1989.



Coast Guard Birthday

Grand Haven, Michigan, will be the host for the Nation's largest Coast Guard bicentennial celebration the week of August 2-4, 1990. U. S. Coast Guard officials expect some 500,000 visitors will honor Coast Guard veterans. Grand Haven, which is nicknamed "Coast Guard City USA", is the site of the final celebration marking 200 years of protecting our Nation's maritime interests. For more information, contact the Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce at 616-842-4910.



Pay Hoax?

Over the past few weeks, we have received several inquiries concerning an article from an anonymous magazine or paper which alludes to a federal court decision that ordered the government to pay a salary differential of 6.14 per cent to all military personnel and veterans who were on active duty between October 1, 1972, and January 1, 1973. Based on our research, this article is incorrect and should be disregarded.

"ATTENTION VETERANS"

VETERANS JOB FAIR



For Honorably Discharged Veterans Only:

THE CANTEY BUILDING
STATE FAIR GROUNDS
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1990
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

In need of employment! Seeking a change of employment! Employers from ALL types of industry will be accepting applications.

ONLY HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS WILL BE ADMITTED.

Pre-registration is available at Job Service between February 1st and April 11th from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday. Bring the following with you:

- Copy of your Discharge Papers (DD-214)
- Picture I.D. card
- Social Security Card or Birth Certificate

If you are **not** pre-registered with Job Service, bring the above documentation to the Job Fair.

For more information contact Job Service, 737-9935.

Sponsored by the Veterans Unit/Columbia Job Service office and Veterans Organizations of the Columbia area.

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